

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

**Project:** Cataloging Protected Lands in the San Joaquin Valley Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

**Date:** August 19, 2009

**Nature of Action:** Provide \$67,402 from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program to the Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) to develop a GIS-based catalog of protected lands in the San Joaquin Valley linked with down-listing criteria, long-term conservation goals, and additional information to facilitate conservation planning in the region.

Location: see attached map and table

**Exclusion Category:** B (2): Research activities, such as nondestructive data collection and analysis, monitoring, modeling, laboratory testing, calibration, and testing of instruments or procedures and non-manipulative field studies.

### Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- |    |   |                               |
|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | This action or group of actions will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.   | No <u>✓</u> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 2. | This action or group of actions will involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.<br>.  | No <u>✓</u> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 3. | This action will have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.   | No <u>✓</u> Uncertain__ Yes__ |
| 4. | This action will have an adverse effect on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, refuges, floodplains, or prime or unique farmlands. | No <u>✓</u> Uncertain__ Yes__ |

5. This action will have highly controversial effects. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_
6. This action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_
7. This action will establish a precedent for future actions. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_
8. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_
9. This action will adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_
10. This action will adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_  
On June 29, 2009, Reclamation initiated informal consultation with the Service on the activities for projects in the CVPCP and the HRP for Fiscal Year 2009. The Service concurred on September 28, 2009 that the projects, including this study, are not likely to adversely affect listed species.
11. This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, executive or Secretarial orders, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_
12. This action will affect Indian Trust Assets. No ✓ Uncertain\_\_ Yes\_\_

13. This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low income or minority populations. No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
14. This action will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
15. This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

**NEPA Action:** Categorical Exclusion ☒ EA ☐ EIS ☐

**Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:**

The proposed project would develop a geographic information systems (GIS)-based catalog of protected lands in the San Joaquin Valley study area and associated database tables linking individual lands with downlisting criteria, long-term conservation goals, and additional site-specific information to facilitate coordinated conservation planning in the region. The focus of this project will be in the *San Joaquin Valley Multispecies Recovery Plan* study area. It is an area of approximately 46,730 km<sup>2</sup> and includes the San Joaquin Valley, Tulare Basin, Carrizo Plain and part of the San Joaquin and Sacramento River Delta (Figure 1). The proposed GIS-based catalog will be based on the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD). CPAD is California's primary and only statewide GIS database of protected land areas.

The *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley* identifies a number of site-specific protection requirements to meet delisting criteria for listed plant and animal species and for the long-term conservation of California-listed and federal candidate species and species of concern. The understanding of which delisting criteria or long-term conservation goals have been met requires the identification of lands under fee or easement protection and a method of associating specific lands to site-specific protection requirements. There is currently a lack of complete information on the location and nature of protected lands in the San Joaquin Valley to adequately access progress towards delisting criteria or other regional conservation goals.

This project will result in an update of the CPAD fee lands data (Table 1), and the completion of the conservation easement data in CPAD for the project area. Revisions to the CPAD fee lands dataset will result in a new release of CPAD, to be posted for download on the California Spatial Information Library (CASIL) web site.

Preparer's Name and Title: /s/ Carolyn Bragg  
Carolyn Bragg  
Natural Resources Specialist

Date:

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 9: See attachment

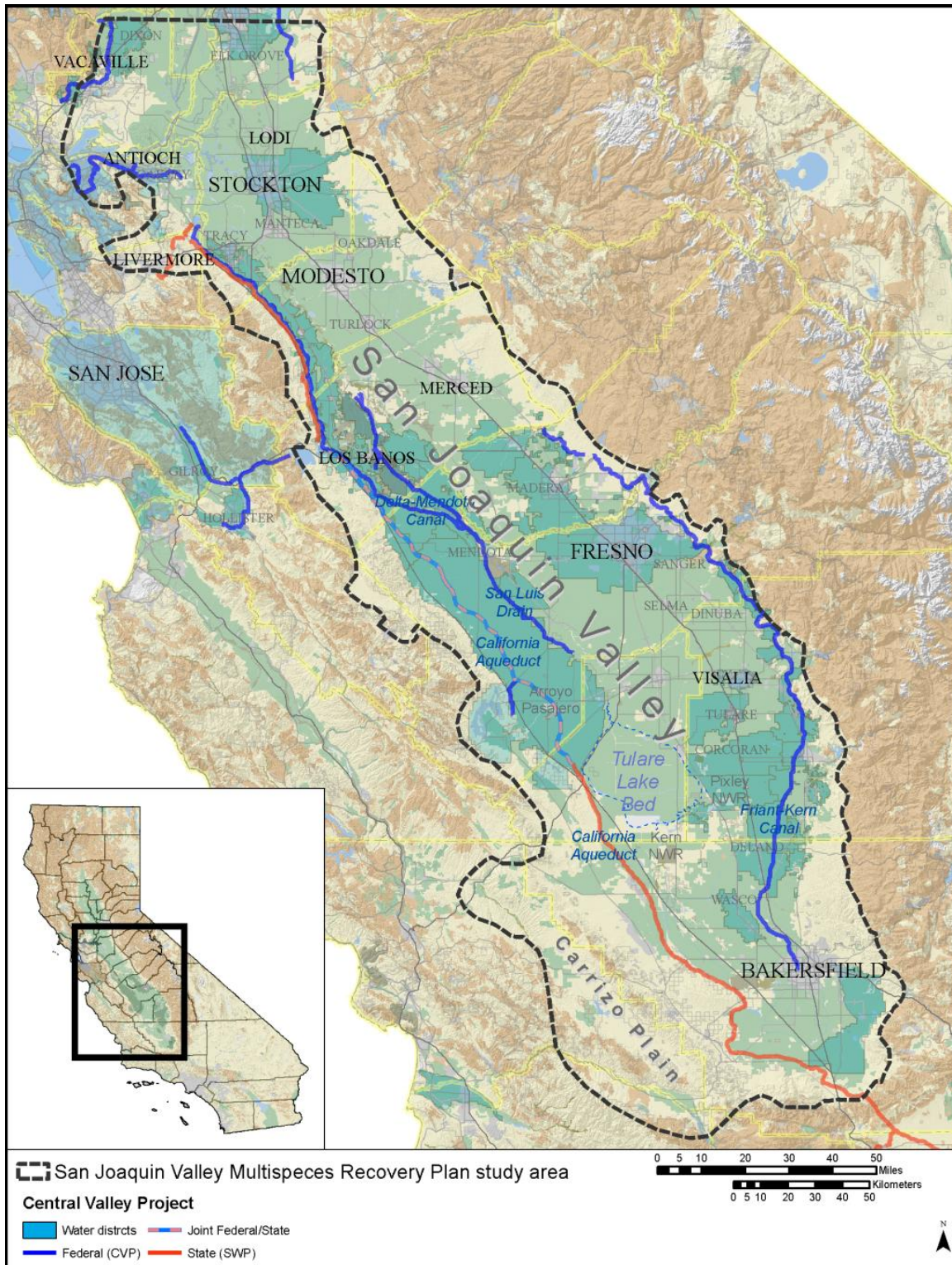
ITA Designee concurrence with Item 12: See attachment

Concurrence:

/s/ John Thomson Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Manager, Central Valley Project  
Conservation Program

Approved:

/s/Mike Chotkowsky Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Environmental Officer



**Table 1. Summary of existing CPAD data within the San Joaquin Valley Multispecies recovery Planning area. Summarized 2008-11-07 by GreenInfo Network.**

<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>11,547,446</b>
Acres of Protected Land	1,167,014
Acres Unprotected Land	10,380,432
<b>Public Access</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Open Public Access	623,667
Restricted Public Access	264,901
Unknown Public Access	46,460
No Public Access	231,987
Public Access Not Yet Assigned	2,556
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,167,014</b>
<b>Agency Level</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Federal	686,585
State	222,069
County	18,317
City	23,355
Special District	31,876
Non-Profit	180,473
Unknown	4,339
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,167,014</b>
<b>Owner Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Easement	216,328
Fee	941,023
Mixed (fee & easement)	8,539
Unknown	1,124
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,167,014</b>